

REMARKS

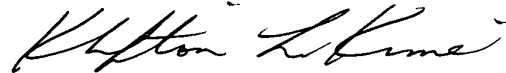
By this Amendment, claims 11-18 are amended and claims 35-46 are added. Accordingly, claims 11-21 and 35-46 are pending in this application. No new matter is added.

Claims 11-21 were previously allowed. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 11-18 do not affect the patentability thereof even though the claim language is broadened. Further, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 35-46 are also patentable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 11-21 and 35-46 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

Klifton L. Kime
Registration No. 42,733

MAC:KLK/kzb

Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: January 9, 2004